

# U.S. Pacific Command

*Presence with a Purpose*

April 2012

[www.pacom.mil](http://www.pacom.mil)



*"We are an Asia-Pacific nation. We are an Asia-Pacific power, and we have many friends and allies in this part of the world that we plan to have unwavering friendships and alliances with for many, many years to come."*

– Remarks by Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III during a media roundtable in Tokyo, Japan. April 4, 2012.

This UNCLASSIFIED product is designed to inform our audiences about U.S. military activities that support U.S. Pacific Command's mission of protecting and defending, in concert with other U.S. Government agencies, the territory of the United States, its people, and its interests. With allies and partners, U.S. Pacific Command is committed to enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development, responding to contingencies, deterring aggression, and, when necessary, fighting to win. Items below provide key examples of the ongoing engagement and military presence the United States has in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **STRENGTHEN ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

About 11,000 U.S. Forces Korea military members and Republic of Korea troops are taking part in exercise Foal Eagle, which started March 1 and ended April 30. The majority of U.S. troops taking part in the exercise are from the South Korean peninsula. The combined forces training exercise spans ground, air, naval, marine, expeditionary, and special operations. The annual exercise is defense-oriented and designed to ensure ROK and U.S. forces are prepared to execute required tasks and missions to protect the Republic of Korea. <http://1.usa.gov/GFeYop>

The Philippine military and emergency services along with Soldiers from the U.S. Army Pacific, Contingency Command Post (CCP), I Corps (Forward), U.S. Army Japan and Joint Task Force Homeland Defense (JTF-HD) joined forces to take part in a command post exercise on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief during exercise Balikatan 2012 at Camp Aguinaldo, Philippines 16-27 April.

[http://www.army.mil/article/78588/U\\_S\\_Army\\_Pacific\\_Soldiers\\_participate\\_in\\_disaster\\_relief\\_training\\_in\\_Manila/](http://www.army.mil/article/78588/U_S_Army_Pacific_Soldiers_participate_in_disaster_relief_training_in_Manila/)

In a ceremony held Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> at Camp Zama three streets of the base were renamed commemorating the worst natural disaster in the country's history, but also paid tribute to the joint relief and rebuilding efforts that followed. The ceremony culminated with the commander of U.S. Army Japan and I Corps (Forward), the chief of staff of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, and the governor of Japan's Miyagi Prefecture officially unveiling the signpost for the newly christened Tomodachi Avenue in addition to Sendai Street and Ishinomaki Avenue.

[http://www.army.mil/article/78627/Camp\\_Zama\\_commemorates\\_anniversary\\_of\\_Japan\\_earthquake\\_tsunami\\_with\\_road\\_renaming\\_ceremony/](http://www.army.mil/article/78627/Camp_Zama_commemorates_anniversary_of_Japan_earthquake_tsunami_with_road_renaming_ceremony/)

## **PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS**

Approximately 200 Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, arrived in Darwin, Australia, April 4. 'Fox' Company is the first element of Marines to arrive in Australia's Northern Territory following the bilateral agreement announced by President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on November 2011. The rotational force is planned to grow incrementally to 2,500 Marines over the course of several years. The Marines are conducting unit-level and bilateral training with their hosts, 1st Brigade, Royal Australian Army and will conduct training with Southeast Asian partner militaries.

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/mcbjapan/Pages/2012/0413-australia.aspx>

Exercise Balikatan 2012 (BK12) took place April 16 - 27 on the islands of Luzon and Palawan, Republic of the Philippines. The annual bilateral exercise primarily involved U.S. military and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) personnel, however, subject matter experts from Philippine civil defense agencies and representatives from ASEAN, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore

and Vietnam participated in disaster relief command post exercises. BK12 was the 28th iteration of the exercise. “Balikatan” is a Tagalog term that means “shoulder-to-shoulder” and the name characterized the spirit of the exercise, focusing on Philippine-U.S. partnership and mutual commitment to regional security. BK12 consisted of three simultaneous events; a robust field training exercise, command post exercise, and humanitarian and civic assistance projects.

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/marforpac/Pages/Balikatan2012officiallyopens.aspx>

### **MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS**

Sailors from the amphibious transport dock USS Denver (LPD 9) and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 42) and Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) conducted training April 2-3 in waters west of the Korean peninsula. While there, the ships and the MEU conducted flight operations, launched landing craft air cushions, and practiced shipboard visit, board, search and seizure techniques, all of which are routine operations and training events aboard amphibious ships in the Asia-Pacific. <http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2012/04-april/024.htm>

The Royal New Zealand Army, along with elements of the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army, began participation April 16 in exercise Alam Halfa 2012, in New Zealand. Scheduled to conclude May 20, this three-phase exercise is led by 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment with the purpose of enhancing interoperability and reinitiating military-to-military relations between the United States and New Zealand, creating ties for future partnership. Alam Halfa exposes the two nations’ militaries to different tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as different equipment and training areas.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=10798003](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=10798003)

The U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) returned to Yokosuka, April 2, completing a six-week patrol throughout the Pacific. The patrol began with a visit to the cities of Busan and Donghae, Republic of Korea (ROK), to participate in the combined forces Exercise Key Resolve 2012. The exercise strengthened the ROK-U.S. alliance; enhanced the combat readiness of ROK and U.S. forces; demonstrated the combined forces' interoperability; and showcased the U.S. commitment to the alliance. Following the ROK visit, Blue Ridge conducted training evolutions at sea along with port visits to Hong Kong and Manila, Republic of the Philippines. While in both ports, crew members volunteered for community service events and participated in a variety of tours during their off time.

<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lcc19/Pages/USSBlueRidgeReturnsToYokosuka.aspx>

### **U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

*[US-Australian alliance] represents what is one of the world's strongest and most productive alliances.” For more than 60 years, our relationship has been and remains vital, not only in the Asia-Pacific region but around the world”. -- Remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with Australian Foreign Minister Robert Carr, April 24, 2012.*